

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Cernavoda - Constanta Canal

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1. The preliminary projects for the Cernavoda - Constanta canal were sent to Moscow. The Soviets have called for a detailed memorandum on the project. A Soviet commission has already been formed in Bucharest to supervise the entire operation. This project will be divided in three sections which will be as follows:
 - a. Danube port
 - b. Black Sea port
 - c. Central section between these ports.Sections a and b will be supervised by the Rumanians. Section c will be supervised exclusively by the Soviets.
2. The project is based on the original soundings made from 1938 to 1940. New soundings are already being made and 32 sounding rigs are being used.
3. Starting from the Cernavoda railroad freight yards, the canal will run along the north side of the railroad line. The canal will pass through the village of Alacap, into lake Siutghiol and finally end in lake Tasaul.
4. The canal will be capable of accomodating barges up to 1,000 tons (about 10 - 11 foot draught). The canal is intended to be 30 meters wide. The Rumanian authorities wanted the canal to be large enough for 2,000 ton barges, but the Soviets would not agree. The construction of the canal is to be completed in four years.
5. In the spring of 1950 the Soviets will supply 42 excavators, which apparently are old and worn machinery.
6. The headquarters for this project is at Alacap, where offices and houses for the staff will be constructed soon. Three small towns are to be built nearby to house the necessary labor. No one will be allowed to leave this area.
7. The three largest Rumanian contractors, Prager, Ioanovici and Drossau were offered attractive posts on the directing staff of the project, but they all refused.

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